

The UK Chess Challenge sponsored by British Land is now in its 11th year. This is the annual chess competition for children up to 18 years and since its inception in 1996 it has grown in popularity with over 70,000 entrants throughout the UK.

The first stage of the competition took place in participating schools and in Lincolnshire this numbered 43 with 1590 children taking part with qualifiers playing in the county megafinal at Lincoln Castle. This compares favourably with 2006 when 1365 entered and is a tribute to the tireless efforts of both staff and parents who encourage and support junior chess in the county.

The increase in numbers meant that the event had to be split over two days and it was my pleasure to help organizer Keith Bridgwood in controlling one of the senior sections.

Grimoldby School was well represented in the junior sections with William Ellemore (under 7 boys), Peter Higgins (U-10 boys) and Amy Milson (U-11 girls) all winning with a maximum 6 points. Joseph Hamson from St Augustine Webster also won all his games in the U-11 boys.

In the senior ranks the plaudits go to John Box from Lincoln SST (U-17 boys) and Samuel Milson from King Edward VI, Louth (U-13 boys) both gaining maximum points.

In all 45 children qualified for the Gigafinal which takes place this week end at Manchester University. You will no doubt join me in wishing them well.

While you are doing that you can peruse over this white to win in two!

